

**METHOD FOR ENSURING THE AVAILABILITY OF A SERVICE PROPOSED BY A  
SERVICE PROVIDER OR THE LIKE**

**Abstract**

Method for ensuring the availability of a service proposed by a  
5 service provider in a data transmission system. The method  
includes looking in a context table for a Uniform Resource  
Locator (URL) defined in a service request in order to  
determine the server able to provide the requested service,  
appending a service availability request to the request before  
10 sending the request to the server, appending a service  
availability token to the reply provided by the server before  
sending the reply to the proxy, removing the service  
availability token from the reply upon reception thereof by the  
proxy, and updating the context table in the proxy before  
15 sending the reply to the user workstation by using information  
contained in the service availability token.